

Irish Turmoil Portrayed in Novel: News of Books and Authors

Ireland's Tragedy Dramatized In Vivid Novel by O'Donovan

Viewpoints of Various Factions Portrayed in Story That Is Rich in Stirring Incidents

CONQUEST. By Gerald O'Donovan. Published by G. P. Putnam's Sons. \$2.

THE tragedy of modern Ireland is dramatized with extraordinary vividness in this brilliant novel. Mr. O'Donovan's characters represent almost every shade of Irish and English political opinion—Sinn Féiners, Orangemen, Irish Nationalists, English Conservatives, English Liberals, English Radicals.

The hero, Jim Daly, is not a strict party man of any sort. Born an Irishman, his mother of Protestant and his father of Catholic stock, he is educated in an English school and enters the British Foreign Office. But he never loses sympathy with his native country, and his sense of its grievances is quickened when he falls in love with Diana Scovell, the daughter of a Protestant landowner, who is, unlike her father, a very ardent Sinn Féiner.

Jim tries desperately to believe that England is better than her treatment of Ireland would seem to prove. Sharing John Redmond's hope that the war would finally end the feud between the two countries, he enlists in the British army and fights in the trenches until he is wounded and sent on a government mission to America.

But the situation at the end of the war scarcely justifies Jim's hopes of a better future for England and Ireland. He comes back to his native land to find it an armed camp patrolled by British troops. He finds an old friend and neighbor who trusted in John Redmond and fought through the war in the English army handcuffed in a prison cell, after being arrested by the police on some technical charge of lawbreaking. Hatred of England is rising even in the hearts of men who had hitherto been considered moderate and loyal.

Diana's uncompromising devotion to Sinn Féin leads to several quarrels between the lovers. In the end, after Diana has been sentenced to life imprisonment for taking part in the Easter rebellion and pardoned, they are united, but the outlook remains gloomy for the country which they both love.

There is rich and complex material for the imaginative novelist in the passions and prejudices of modern Ireland, and Mr. O'Donovan makes full use of his opportunities. The book abounds in whimsical, paradoxical and contradictory situations, such as are certain to arise in a country where political feeling runs high and where there are many divergent cleavages of race, religion and economic interest.

There are many characters whose reactions to the complicated circumstances of the case are curiously confused: the Catholic landlord who favors the Union and believes in a conservative land policy; the stern old Catholic farmer who declares that Parnell will certainly go to heaven, even though he is a Protestant, because he gave his life for Ireland; the Protestant landowner who doesn't lay much stress on politics or religion, but who believes that the tenants should be firmly kept down. Only the Orangemen, Pakenham, is rigidly consistent in his conviction that southern Ireland must

be crushed under the heel of Ulster ascendancy. Mr. O'Donovan handles material that readily lends itself to propagandist use with understanding and broad mindedness. His sympathies are clearly with the people of southern Ireland, but the case for the English official and the Ulster Protestant is fairly stated. There is a great deal of conversation in the novel, and in the swift clash of opposing views and personalities the reader gains a clearer insight into the numerous ramifications of the Irish problem than he might get by reading a hundred controversial books.

The novel is realistic to the core. The author knows his Ireland and loves it. The life of the Irish village and countryside is portrayed with striking fidelity.

There are scenes in the story that fasten themselves to the memory with the vividness of silhouettes. It is difficult to forget Jim's grandfather, an old Fenian and Parnellian, suddenly stricken with loss of memory by Redmond's speech at the outset of the war, which ran counter to all his cherished convictions. And there is gripping tension in the debate between two farmers—father and son—about Ireland's duty in the war. The father finally joins the British army; the son remains behind, to fight and die in the Easter rebellion.

Mr. O'Donovan has a double achievement to his credit. He has given a fair and faithful picture of the forces at work in Ireland to-day and he has embodied this picture in an uncommonly good novel.

Veblen: Ironist

Economic Essays Tinged With Satire

THE ENGINEERS AND THE PRICE SYSTEM. By Thorstein Veblen. Published by B. W. Huebsch. \$1.50.

THE name of Thorstein Veblen is likely to conjure up formidable vision of a man who writes ponderous books full of recondite theories expressed in an obscure and esoteric style. This vision has been given wide currency by H. L. Mencken in *Prejudices*, where he describes very vividly the succession of acute physical ailments which overtook him when he read Veblen's works.

It is a pity to destroy such a vigorous legend, but Veblen's present work is neither long, nor obscure, nor badly written. A note of satirical humor runs through the book, and the author must have written many of the sentences with a twinkle in his eye. Professor Veblen is by no means as innocent as he seems. He will proceed peacefully for a time, with an apparently objective consideration of modern industrial conditions. Then he will suddenly jab the reader's mental consciousness with some such pungent observation as the following:

"In any community that is organized on the price system, with investment and business enterprise, habitual unemployment of the available industrial plant and workmen, in whole or in part, appears to be the indispensable condition without which tolerable conditions of life cannot be maintained."

The author's main quarrel with the present industrial system is that it is controlled by financiers, rather than by technologists. He is inclined to ascribe the lion's share of its inefficiency to this cause.

It is to the younger technologists that he looks hopefully for a satisfactory solution of the problems of poverty, underproduction and business maladministration. Labor is organized in the A. P. of L. for bargaining, rather than for production, and is obviously incompetent to take over the direction of industry. And Professor Veblen believes that financiers are not the proper governors of plants with whose technical processes they are seldom well acquainted. He projects a scheme for the taking over of industries by engineers in conjunction with skilled workmen, who should henceforth administer them for the common good on principles of scientific efficiency.

This plan sounds decidedly fantastic and utopian, but some of the author's criticisms of the waste and leakage in the present organization of our productive resources are pertinent and interesting.

The Will to Work

WILL POWER AND WORK. By Jules Payot. Translated by Richard Duff. Published by Funk & Wagnall. \$1.75.

THE essential stimulus to effective work is the development of the will. Dr. Payot suggests various means to strengthen, control and direct this faculty. He tells how to read systematically and intelligently, how to improve the memory, how to supplement and utilize one's education. The book should be warmly welcomed in America, where books on mental efficiency and practical character building are apt to find a wide audience.

Workers in America

THE WORKERS IN AMERICAN HISTORY. By James O'Neal. Published by The Rand School. \$1.

THIS work published in a new and enlarged edition, undertakes to portray the rôle which the workers have played in American history. The author emphasizes the state of penury, or practical slavery, in which many white immigrants were held in the early days of American history. This condition did not altogether disappear until many years after the Revolution.

Book Gossip

PAUL VERLAINE

The life of Paul Verlaine, the greatest of French symbolist poets of the nineteenth century, the most fantastic of men, has at last been adequately chronicled. The Honorable Harold Nicolson has written a brilliant life, which Houghton Mifflin Company is publishing this month. Verlaine's poetry is, perhaps, the highest water mark in modern French verse. Only twenty-five years after his death he is already shrouded with tradition. His personality has taken on the size and aspects of a legendary deity of the Quartier Latin of Paris. His career was blackly checked by disease, poverty, prison and bursts of uncontrollable passion. In contrast to these was the deeply religious side of his nature. The poems written in these moments have the naive and beautiful tranquility of the Fra Angelico paradise. It is sometimes said that he wrote love poetry during his drunken revels and his religious poems were the output of the next morning. The truth about Verlaine—which surely is stranger even than the strange fiction that has been woven about him—makes one of the great stories in literary history.

Frank's New Travel Book

The manuscript of Harry A. Frank's next book, *Working North From Patagonia*, is in the hands of his publisher, the Century Company, and, unless something worse than usual happens on the mechanical side of the publishing business, the book will be issued early in the autumn. This is the volume which tells of Mr. Frank's wanderings on the east side of South America, being a companion volume to the author's *Vagabonding Down the Andes*, which recounted his adventures and observations going down the west coast.

By the way, Mr. Frank is receiving suggestions as to what part of the world he will next explore and put on paper. Next year he will be on his way somewhere. Alaska has been suggested; also China, the Straits Settlements, Tibet, etc. He has not yet decided, and he is open to suggestion. His own preference is for China, and a Frank book on that extraordinary country would be one to look forward to. He is one of the few travel writers who can present peoples and places on paper without either sentimentalizing them or smothering them in dull statistics. A Frank book is a fact book—and a fascinating fact book because he is passionately interested in facts.

Pilgrim Tercentenary

"The Pilgrim Spirit" is the title of the pageant to be given in the State Reservation by Plymouth Rock in July and August of the present year under the auspices of the Pilgrim Tercentenary Commission of Massachusetts. The pageant was written and will be produced by George P. Baker, Professor of English, Harvard University. The verse is by Robert Frost, Hermann Hagedorn, Josephine Preston Peabody and Edwin Arlington Robinson; the music has been composed by George W. Chadwick, Chalmers Cifton, F. S. Converse, Arthur Foote, Henry F. Gilbert, Edward Burlingame Hill, Edgar Stillman Kelley, Leo Sowerby and John Powell. The book will be published by the Marshall Jones Company of Boston early in July.

If You Are "Topping"

Topping is one of the golfers' most common faults, yet one that is easily remedied, says Dave Hunter, the expert instructor in his new book, *Golf Simplified* (Doubleday, Page & Co.).

"Topping is frequently caused by dropping the right shoulder, due to the fact that either the wrists or the grip of the left hand, or both, are too loose at the top of the back swing. The result of this is that on the downward movement the club gives the impression of being too heavy and the shoulder is allowed to drop. This causes the clubhead to strike the ground several inches behind the ball, with the result that it is badly topped."

"If you find yourself topping see that your grip is right and that you are pronating properly, i. e., starting slowly back from ball—the back movement—and the turning of the wrists and forearms starting simultaneously."

The Kaiser Loses

Letters which place the Kaiser in an extremely bad light, and which are published in America by the Harpers in the book entitled *The Kaiser vs. Bismarck*, are now permitted to be published and sold in Germany. According to a Paris cable to Harper & Brothers, a Berlin court has given judgment in the action instituted by the publishing firm of Cotta, of Stuttgart, against the ex-emperor, who had prohibited the publication of the third volume of Bismarck's *Memoirs*. This brings to an end the Kaiser's long, losing fight to suppress the publication of his letters to Bismarck.

New Essays by Edmund Gosse

Books on the Table, Edmund Gosse's latest volume of essays, which has just made its appearance from Charles Scribner's Sons, is entirely devoted to brief articles on recent books. Each week Mr. Gosse has been reviewing a book in *The Sunday Times*, and this culling of forty short essays—or "pygmy children of the pen," as he calls them—covers a wide range of literature and is thoroughly representative of the best type of journalistic criticism.

Otis Skinner in an Ibañez Rôle

Otis Skinner will appear next winter in Tom Cushing's dramatization of *Danah's Blood and Sand* (Dutton), in which he will act the part of the tormented, chief character of the story. Mr. Skinner is in Europe now, and will spend part of the summer in Spain.



HENRY VAN DYKE, the eleventh and twelfth volumes of whose writings have recently been published by Charles Scribner's Sons

Hitherto Unpublished Letters Cast New Light on Oscar Wilde

Bitterness and Pathos of Author's Two Years' Imprisonment Reflected in His Correspondence

Twenty-five hitherto unpublished letters, written by Oscar Wilde on his release from Reading Gaol, have just been issued in book form in *After Reading*. The letters show his characteristic wit, but are marked by the bitterness and pathos of his two years' imprisonment.

"I am," he wrote to Mr. Ross ten days after leaving prison, "to write a political economy in my heavier moments. The first law I lay down is: 'Whenever there exists a demand there is no supply.'"

"This is the only law that explains the extraordinary contrast between the soul of man and man's surroundings. 'Civilizations continue because people hate them.'"

"A modern city is the exact opposite of what every one wants. 'Nineteenth century dress is one result of our horror of the style.'"

"The tall hat will last as long as people dislike it." Soon after his release from Reading, Wilde went to France, where he rented a chalet at Berneval, which he was most anxious to make "look like home."

He again wrote to Mr. Ross, saying: "Could you get something in London I want very much? Do you know that Japanese cloth in gold—made, I be-

lieve, of paper maché—with no design on it, or on very close to the fabric and unimportant. . . . Not too bright, rather dull?"

"If so, would you get me a piece about two yards square? I want a background to put lithographs on—things by Shannon and Will Rothenstein; and wallpapers are dreary or hopeless: I feel that for white drawings a gold background is vital."

In his chalet, which overlooked the sea, Wilde lived quietly, but he missed England and the comforts of life there. Here is a letter in which, after unfortunate adventures with French timepieces, he asked for an English watch:

"A nickel watch is what I long for. Silver is bimetallic. I never know the time and my poem goes all wrong consequently, though it aims at eternity."

"Please use postcards when you have no news; they are so private. I took advantage of the postcard system yesterday to thank you for the cheque and for all the wonderful kindness you and More have shown me. So is recitance in art taught to me."

"Nowadays everybody is jealous of every one else, except, of course, husband and wife. I think I shall keep this last remark for my play."

Shores of Asia

From Golden Horn to Golden Gate

AROUND THE SHORES OF ASIA. By Mary A. Poynter. Published by George Allen and Unwin, London; 16 shillings.

MRS. POYNTER'S trip from Constantinople to San Francisco took her through the regions of the world which must always appear most picturesque and exotic to Western eyes. Egypt, Arabia, India, China, Japan—the very names conjure up images of strange people and strange faiths, of ruined temples seen by moonlight, of elephants and pagodas and incense and bright costumes.

Mrs. Poynter, the wife of a British official, is sometimes disappointingly conventional in her reactions to the scenes which she describes. However, she is a faithful, if somewhat matter-of-fact, reporter, and the reader's imagination can sometimes supplement her accounts.

The author visited chief cities of India—Benares, hallowed in the eyes of Buddhist pilgrims; Agra, with its rare monument, the Taj Mahal; historic Delhi, prosperous Calcutta. Stopping at Rangoon, Penang, Singapore and Bangkok, she caught glimpses of the care-free life of the Burmese and the various tribes of the Malay peninsula. In Siam she saw the famous sacred white elephants, which she describes as white only by a considerable stretch of the observer's imagination.

The book also records the author's impressions of Japan and China, and ends with her arrival in San Francisco.

Mormons in Arizona

MORMON SETTLEMENT IN ARIZONA. By James H. McChesney. Published by the author. Phoenix.

STUDENTS interested in the history of Mormonism, or of Arizona, will find a wealth of information on both subjects in this work, which has been carefully prepared by the Arizona State Historian. Colonel McChesney describes the causes which led to the gradual infiltration of Mormons into Arizona and their successful cultivation of desert regions, in spite of the handicaps imposed by the occasional attacks of bandits and Apaches.

May Best Sellers

As shown by special reports from seventy-four booksellers in fifty-two cities of the United States. Compiled by Books of the Month.

Fiction

Main Street. By Sinclair Lewis. (Harcourt, Brace Co.)

The Brimming Cup. By Dorothy Canfield. (Harcourt, Brace Co.)

Sister Sue. By Eleanor Porter. (Houghton Mifflin Co.)

The Mysterious Rider. By Zane Grey. (Harper Brothers.)

Kingdom Round the Corner. By Coningsby Dawson. (Cosmopolitan.)

The Sheikh. By H. Hull. (Small, Maynard & Co.)

Non-Fiction

Mystic Isles of South Seas. By J. O'Brien. (Century Co.)

The Outline of History. By H. G. Wells. (Macmillan Co.)

The Peace Negotiations. By Robert Lansing. (Houghton Mifflin Co.)

Mirrors of Downing Street. Anonymous. (G. P. Putnam's Sons.)

What Happened at Paris. By Colonel E. M. House. (Houghton Mifflin Co.)

Ballads of a Bohemian. By Robert Service. (Barnes & Hopkins.)

Love Triumphant

Good Character Sketches in English Novel

THE ISLANDS OF DESIRE. By Diana Patrick. Published by E. P. Dutton & Co. \$2.

THE triumph of love over greed and intrigue is the dominant theme of Miss Patrick's novel. Rose Binna, a young girl of eighteen, revolts against the gloomy tyranny of her father, a sanctimonious manufacturer whose religious creed shuts out all pleasure. She marries Richard Canardo, a strolling musician and adventurer, whose virtues do not include constancy. He deserts her on the eve of the birth of her child, and she becomes convinced of the fact of his death and marries a faithful friend, in spite of her father's objections and warnings.

Pearl and Vivien, Rose's daughters by her first and second marriages respectively, meet each other without knowing that they are sisters. Vivien is a wholesome, straightforward girl, while Pearl possesses the unscrupulous seductiveness of a Becky Sharp. Vivien is outwitted in intrigue by her half-sister, but by a happy twist of the novelist's pen Pearl's triumph actually turns to Vivien's advantage, so every one is satisfied.

The stuffy background of narrow, cheerless bigotry against which Rose rebels is sketched with vigor and conviction. Miss Patrick is also fortunate with some of her minor characters. The genial auctioneer, who goes about quoting and misquoting poetry, and the lady who excuses her inability to read on the score of weak eyes are especially well done. The novel as a whole reveals at once a keen sense of romance and an intimate knowledge of people.

Fiction of Mexican Villain Exploded by Eugene M. Rhodes

Author of Western Novels Testifies From Experience to Charm of Our Southern Neighbors

By Eugene Manlove Rhodes
Author of *Stepsons of Light*
(Reprinted by special arrangement from Brentano's Book Chat)

SINCE the days of the invincible Armada the English have been taught to hate and fear the Spaniard. In the English novel the Spaniard is "the villain" ex officio. Failing the Spaniard, the villain must be a man with dark complexion and good teeth.

In this country the Mexican has fallen heir to this race prejudice. The Mexican in our novels is a man of straw: not only a scoundrel, but a stupid and feckless scoundrel, sure to be outwitted, outthought and "foiled" by any blond in the book. We have kept the teeth, too. Since the Mexican, a frugal liver, has perfect teeth, such as our own are not, we have contrived to make these teeth a blemish and a reproach, outward sign of a black heart.

The people who write this tosh know nothing about Mexicans, of course, and the result—quite apart from a senseless insult to a neighbor—is tedious, unconvincing and dull. It is safe to say that the average American has more misinformation about Mexico and the Mexicans than on any other subject on earth.

Hear, now, the truth. The Mexican has his faults, like the people in forty-seven of our own states; but, generally speaking, he is hospitable, courteous, frugal, hardy, proud, unselfish, generous, unthrift, gay-hearted, unindustrious, liberty-loving, cheerful, patient and brave. "I'm not arguing, I'm just telling you"—as the Texan puts it. Use the Mexican well and he will requite it; and he is also responsible to bad treatment, very much like yourself.

Let me present three facts, three from thousands, verify and perpend. They may lead you to be interested in facts. You may even hunt up more facts. (Read the *Awakening of a Nation*.)

1. There has never been legalized slavery on Mexican soil.

2. In 1850 the territory of New Mexico voted on the question of whether New Mexico should be a free state or a slave state. Thirty-nine votes were cast for slavery. Thirty-nine.

3. In the Civil War New Mexico furnished more troops to the North in proportion to population than any other state—nearly 7,000 volunteers from a total of nearly 38,000.

Disorder in Mexico? Revolution? Outrages?—True, most unhappy. And yet—read Plutarch's *Lives*, or the *War of the Roses*. Compare Mexico with Europe during the last seven years, or seven hundred. If Europe's history since 1914 were no worse than Mexico's—what a gain to the world!

I have lived on the border more than half my life; I have kindly recollections of the Mexican gente, there are many whom I am proud to call friend;

what I bitterly resent is that our fiction holds this kindly people up to hatred and contempt. Exception, the Missourian.

This morning's mail brings word that one of these Mexican friends is dead, the dearest, Frank Bojarques, perhaps the man most loved and most admired in New Mexico; hero and pattern to the young, boast and idol of the cow countries; best roper, boldest rider, longest head, best comforter, shadow of a great rock in a weary land. He carries a very clean plume into whatever courts may wait him; and the world is lonelier without him.

The newspapers? Another story, and a worse one. They want a Mexican war—for a reason they have. But the writers of war editorials will not go to war, nor will the men who pay for them.

The movies? Just a word. In a story of mine, filmed and soon to be released, I depicted a Mexican, Anastacio Barera, as a gallant rogue, and a lovable—such as he really was. Now, without knowledge, I prophesy that the film version will either leave Anastacio out or show him as a silly scoundrel. This grieves me. Anastacio and I were untried, and he is dead. But I fear the worst. A Mexican with good points is an idea too complex and startling for the movie mind.

This matter vexes me. I do not like to tell derogatory lies about dead men.

Explaining the Bible

ESSAYS IN BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION. By Henry Frederick Smith. Published by the Marshall Jones Company. Boston. \$2.50.

PROFESSOR SMITH traces the most important interpretations of the Bible which have prevailed from the early Hebrews to the historical critics of the nineteenth century. The work is characterized by notable scholarship and impartiality. It gives a dispassionate account of the interpretations which were favored by varying schools of Jewish and Christian theological thought, without showing marked bias in any direction. The author does, however, express the belief that the Bible offers us not a revealed philosophy, or a static faith, but rather "the record of the religious experience of men terribly in earnest in seeking for God."

How to Show Films

THE CINEMATOPHILE BOOK. Edited by Bernard E. Jones. Published by Funk & Wagnall.

THIS is a valuable guide to the would-be moving picture operator. The practical details of making and showing films are explained at length, with numerous illustrations.

Horatio Parker

HORATIO PARKER. By George W. Chadwick. Published by the Yale University Press. 60c.

THIS is a brief but adequate review of Horatio Parker's musical achievements and an eloquent tribute to his personal qualities.

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Preachy? Not a single or married line of it.

Problem stuff? Not a bit of it. How can there be anything problematical or mathematical in a love, jilt-lured but straight from the heart and soul of an honest Husband-Reared youth like Nick?

And how can there be anything worth a chalked cipher in the scattered affection of a woman brainy, brilliant, beautiful as Beauty, but minus of soul as a mummy and with a heart that shifts and softens only to the love whispers of a trousered check book?



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